

PEEKSKILL, N.Y.
STAR

E. 9,434

MAY 16 1961

Disquieting Reports

IT IS disquieting, in the climate of discussion coming from President Kennedy's suggestion that the national security needs more self-censorship by the press, that the government is giving the appearance of hiding things from the people.

Helpful in cutting through this situation would be official disclosure of the truth bearing on published reports that survivors of the rebel Cuban invasion force have been or are concealed by the United States.

One story is that these men were spirited to a Marine base on Vieques Island, some 500 miles from Cuba, kept there until May 2, and then flown back to the U. S.

Vieques has been closed to reporters. Neither the White House, Defense Department nor the Central Intelligence Agency will admit anything about the story.

WE WONDER what major security consideration can be so involved in the story of these survivors that President Kennedy has kept such a lid on it?

If there is no such consideration, why can't there be some clear cut statement of denial, the opening of Vieques and the barring of the details of this last chapter of the Cuban debacle?

The present official attitude, frankly, makes us uneasy.

The source and extent of the support given the Cuban rebels and the rôle of America as an interventionist have been shrouded in such secrecy, both before and since the invasion, that our democratic sense is offended.

We find it unbelievable that the German people under Hitler could have known nothing about the activities of Eichmann.

We abhor the Soviet Union's iron control of information and its spoonfeeding of self-propaganda to its people.

* * *

WE KNOW that the peculiar state of mind of authoritarian leaders, who wanted to hear only what they felt was "good" and the sycophancy of their followers, who then reported only the "facts" that fitted the preconceived picture contributed mightily to the downfall of the Axis nations in World War II.

We agree that the national security should not be carelessly endangered, but we cannot help but fear that in some quarters "national security" is being confused with "national mistakes."

This the American people will not stand for long and it will not take many disclosures of unnecessary censorship before the entire operation of official Washington becomes suspect.